



Respiratory Care Practitioner

Salary Group: A20
Class Code: 4428

CLASS TITLE	CLASS CODE	SALARY GROUP	SALARY RANGE
RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONER	4428	A20	\$48,158 - \$77,477

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Performs complex (journey-level) respiratory therapy work. Work involves providing respiratory care by initiating and conducting therapeutic procedures, including the application of oxygen and compressed air, and instructing patients on proper breathing techniques. Works under general supervision, with moderate latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Provides pressure breathing treatments using ventilators and various oxygen and aerosol devices and administers oxygen and ultrasonic mists as ordered.

Provides instruction on abdominal breathing exercises and breathing techniques.

Provides technical assistance in artificial ventilation and tracheostomy care and in conducting pulmonary function tests.

Performs respiratory physiotherapy techniques, including postural drainage and percussion.

Monitors patients' responses to therapy by reviewing vital signs and measuring and analyzing arterial blood gases and blood chemistry changes.

Interprets breathing sounds and applies endotracheal suction.

Monitors patients undergoing treatment and evaluates patients' progress.

Consults with physicians and other medical staff regarding patients' condition and status.

Prepares reports and maintains records.

Maintains, repairs, and sets up respiratory therapy equipment and ensures that proper adjustments are made.

Assists in performing emergency resuscitation, including artificial ventilation and external cardiac compression.

Performs related work as assigned.

GENERAL QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Experience in respiratory therapy work. Graduation from a standard senior high school or equivalent supplemented by coursework in respiratory therapy is generally preferred. Experience and education may be substituted for one another.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of respiratory therapy principles and techniques.

Skill in the operation, maintenance, and repair of respiratory therapy equipment; and in the operation of a computer and applicable software.

Ability to provide respiratory therapy care, to prepare reports, to maintain records, and to communicate effectively.

REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE

Must be certified as a respiratory care practitioner by the State of Texas.